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## Will Nikita Take It Out on Powers?

The ominously deliberate wrecking of the Paris summit conference by Nikita Khrushchev, stemming as it did from his shammed fury over invasion of Soviet air space by an American espionage plane which fell into Russian hands on May 1, adds seriousness to the probable fate of the captured flier, Francis Gary Powers.

Khrushchev had previously declared that Powers would be dealt with harshly. That, of course, could mean his execution as a spy at Khrushchev's orders, or at least a long term in prison at the decree of Soviet judges.

Powers, 30, is a Virginian who once lived in Georgia where his wife and her parents reside. After resigning from the Air Force in 1956 to become a civilian test pilot with Lockheed, he later went with the Central Intelligence Agency and was sent to Turkey to engage in aerial espionage against the Soviet Union — an activity which, Washington admits, has been going on for several years.

Spy though he reportedly confessed to being, Powers was, nonetheless, carrying out orders on a perilous mission for his country when his U-2 plane was either shot down, as the Russians claim, or else was forced to land because of mechanical trouble which, of

course, could have been the case. The facts may never be disclosed. So, in spite of Khrushchev's truculent outbursts over the incident, it is to be hoped that the United States government will exert every possible effort for Powers' release. Unfortunately, however, there doesn't seem to be much at the moment that Washington can do in view of Khrushchev's apparent determination to make a case celebre — if not a casus belli — of the incident.